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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

WENDY LEE MOORE,  
RICHARD ANDREW TARANTINO, JR.,  
dba T & M CONSTRUCTION ) No. CV-07-02860-MISC CRB  
  
Petitioners,  
v.  
  
WELLS FARGO BANK,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
COMMISSIONER, UNITED STATES ) MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION  
 ) TO PETITION TO QUASH, MOTION  
 ) FOR SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT,  
 ) AND MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT  
  
DATE: August 31, 2007  
TIME: 10:00 A.M.  
PLACE: Courtroom 8, 19th Floor  
  
Respondents.

\_\_\_\_ PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on August 31, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., before the Honorable Charles R. Breyer, United States District Judge, United States District Court, 19th Floor, Courtroom No. 8, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, the United States of America, by counsel, will and does moves the Court to deny the petition to quash, and for summary enforcement of the summons. In support of its motion the United States submits the following memorandum.

## **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

Wendy Lee Moore and Richard Andrew Tarantino, Jr., move to quash an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") summons served on Wells Fargo Bank ("bank").

## **QUESTION PRESENTED**

Should the petition to quash be denied and the subject IRS' summons be summarily enforced where the United States has met the Powell requirements for enforcement, and Petitioners have failed to raise a legitimate defense to enforcement?

## **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Petitioner Richard Andrew Tarantino, Jr. did not file Form 1040 Federal income tax returns for tax year 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2003. Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 1. Substitutes for Return were prepared and assessments were made for those years. Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 1. An additional assessment was made for taxpayer's 1994 tax year liability. Declaration of Revenue Office Lowe, ¶ 1. Taxpayer has in total over \$284,000 of unpaid tax liability currently assessed. Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 1.

To collect the assessed taxes, the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") issued summons to Wells Fargo Bank ("bank"), on April 18, 2007. Pl's Comp., Ex. B. The summons directed Wells Fargo to produce various records and information regarding the account of T & M Construction, account # 9913482890. Pl's Comp., Ex. B. True and correct copy of the summons are attached to the Declaration of Revenue Officer Richard Lowe. The summons was issued in aid of collection of income tax liabilities of T & M Construction. Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 2,3. The taxpayer does business or has done business under the fictitious business name "T & M Construction." Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 6; also see Pl's Comp., caption.

On June 1, 2007, petitioners filed petition to quash summons. However, this Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over this petition.

## ARGUMENT

I.

## **The District Court Lacks Subject Matter Jurisdiction Over The Petition To Quash**

26 The power of taxpayers to sue the United States is restricted to circumstances in which  
27 Congress has elected to waive sovereign immunity. See **United States v. Dalm**, 494 U.S. 596,  
28 608. Further, such waivers of sovereign immunity must be strictly construed in favor of the

1 sovereign. **McMahon v. United States**, 342 U.S. 25, 27 (1951). Where the United States has  
 2 not consented to suit, dismissal of the action is required. **Gilbert v. DaRossa**, 756 F. 2d 1455,  
 3 1458 (9th Cir. 1985). The United States has not consented to suit this action.

4 Pursuant to section 7609(b)(2)(A) of 26 U.S.C, only a person who is entitled to notice of  
 5 a summons under the Internal Revenue Code Section 7609(a) is entitled to bring a proceeding  
 6 against the government to quash the summons. Section 7609(c)(2)(D)(i) provides that section  
 7 7609(a)(1) shall not apply to any summons issued in aid of the collection of an assessment made  
 8 against the person with respect to whose liability the summons is issued. Because of the  
 9 importance of the Commissioner's authority to issue summonses for purposes of investigating  
 10 outstanding federal tax liabilities, Congress has carefully circumscribed the jurisdiction of the  
 11 federal district courts with respect to actions seeking to challenge the validity of such  
 12 summonses. See **United States v. Arthur Young & Co.**, 465 U.S. 805, 816-817 (1984).

13 The summons in the present case was issued against the taxpayer's bank account for the  
 14 collection of unpaid liabilities previously assessed against the taxpayer. **Declaration of Revenue**  
 15 **Officer Lowe**, ¶ 2. Section 7609(a)(1) therefore does not apply to the summons at issue, and  
 16 Section 7609(b)(2) does not serve as a jurisdictional basis for the petitioners' suit. Where records  
 17 are summoned from a third-party record keeper in aid of the collection of an assessed tax against  
 18 a taxpayer with respect to whose liability the summons was issued, the taxpayer has no right to  
 19 notice necessary for the right to petition to quash the summons, and therefore the district court  
 20 lacks jurisdiction over a petition to quash brought by the taxpayer. See 26 U.S.C. 7609(b)(2);  
 21 7609(c)(2)(D). **Commissioner v. Hayes**, 631 F. Supp. 785, 786 (N.D. Cal. 1985).

22 In **Ip v. United States**, the 9th Circuit stated that:

23 Where the [Internal Revenue] Service has made an assessment or obtained a  
 24 judgment against a taxpayer and serves a summons [\*1173] on a bank, for  
 25 example, in order to determine whether the taxpayer has an account in that bank,  
 26 and whether the assets in that account are sufficient to cover the tax liability  
 which has been assessed, the [Internal Revenue] Service is not required, under the  
 committee bill, to give notice to the taxpayer whose account is involved.  
 27  
 28 ///

Ip v. United States, 205 F.3d 1168, 1172-1173 (9th Cir. 2000).

Additionally, the notice exception in Section 7609(c)(2)(D) applies not only to the taxpayer, but any party. **Barmes v. United States**, 199 F.3d 386 (7th Cir. 1999). Therefore, the notice exception pertains both to the taxpayer and co-petitioner, Wendy Lee Moore.

The summons in the present case was issued to collect information from the bank relevant to collection of taxpayer's income tax liability; the IRS was not required to provide notice to the petitioners. Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 5; 26 U.S.C. §7609(c)(2)(D). Accordingly, the district court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the petition to quash because petitioners were not entitled to notice of the summons; the United States has expressly withheld consent to be sued by parties not entitled to notice. See 26 U.S.C. §7609(b)(2)(A).

In dismissing for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, it is not necessary for the District Court to evaluate the merits of the summonses under the good faith requirements set forth in United States v. Powell, 379 U.S. 48, 57-58 (1964). Ponsford v. United States, 771 F. 2d 1305, 1308. However, for respect of the Court and in response to allegations set forth by petitioners, the United States has included the following discussion establishing the merits of the summons.

II.

## **Summons Enforcement in General and the Powell Requirements**

Congress has conferred upon the Secretary of Treasury the responsibility to make accurate determinations of tax liability and to collect such taxes, and has given the Secretary broad authority to conduct investigations for those purposes. 26 U.S.C. §7602. Section 7601(a) provides that the Secretary shall "cause officers or employees of the Treasury Department to proceed....through each internal revenue district and inquire after and concerning all persons therein who may be liable to pay any internal revenue tax..." The Commissioner of Internal Revenue ("Commissioner"), as the Secretary's delegate, is charged with this duty to make inquiries, determinations, and assessments of all taxes imposed by the Internal Revenue Code and to collect such taxes. Section 7602(a)(1) specifically authorizes the Commissioner to examine any books, records, papers, or other data which may be relevant or material in

1 ascertaining the correctness of any return, making a return where none has been made,  
 2 determining the liability of any person for an internal revenue tax. 26 § U.S.C. 7602(a)(1).  
 3 Section 7602(a)(2) authorizes the Commissioner to issue summonses to compel persons in  
 4 possession of such books, papers, records, or other data to produce for such examination.

5 An Internal Revenue Service summons is issued administratively, "but its enforcement is  
 6 only by federal court authority in an 'adversary proceeding' affording the opportunity for  
 7 challenge and 'complete protection of the witness.'" United States v. Church of Scientology of  
 8 California, 520 F. 2d 818, 821 (9th Cir. 1975); Donaldson v. United States, 400 U.S. 517  
 9 (1971). When seeking the enforcement of a summons the United States must show: (1) that there  
 10 is a legitimate purpose for the investigation; (2) that the material sought is relevant to that  
 11 purpose; (3) that the material sought is not already within the IRS' possession; and (4) that those  
 12 administrative steps which are required by the Internal Revenue Code have been taken. United  
 13 States v. LaSalle National Bank, 400 U.S. at 298 (1978); Powell, 379 U.S at 57-58.

14 The United States may establish its prima facie case by a declaration of an agent involved  
 15 in the investigation averring the Powell good faith elements. United States v. Samuels,  
 16 Kramer and Co., 712 F.2d 1342, 1344-5 (9th Cir. 1983); United States v. Will, 671 F.2d 963,  
 17 966 (6th Cir. 1982). The United States has established its prima facie case through the  
 18 Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe.

19 Once this showing has been made, the party challenging the summons bears the heavy  
 20 burden of proving that enforcement of the summons would be an abuse of the court's process.  
 21 United States v. Powell, at 58; United States v. LaSalle National Bank, at 316. Unless the  
 22 party challenging the summons can demonstrate that it was issued for an improper purpose, or  
 23 was otherwise deficient, the United States is entitled to enforcement of the summons. United  
 24 States v. LaSalle National Bank, at 316, 318; Donaldson v. United States, at 536. The United  
 25 States has detailed its prima facie case below.

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1 III.

2 **The Summons at Issue Meets the Powell Requirements**

3 **A. Legitimate Purpose**

4 The first Powell requirement is that the summons be issued for a legitimate purpose.  
 5 Powell, at 57.

6 In the present case, the summons was issued for a legitimate purpose, to obtain  
 7 information to aid in the collection of unpaid taxes previously assessed against the taxpayer.  
 8 Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 2.

9 **B. Relevance**

10 The second Powell requirement is that the "material sought be relevant to the purpose of  
 11 the investigation." Powell, at 57. Section 7602(a)(1) authorizes the Secretary to summons the  
 12 records of any person "which may be relevant or material to the investigation." 26 U.S.C.  
 13 §7602(a)(1). It is well settled that the United States, to satisfy the relevancy requirement set forth  
 14 in Powell, need only show that the summoned information "[might] throw light upon the  
 15 correctness of the taxpayer's return." United States v. Zolin, 809 F.2d 1411, 1414 (9th Cir.  
 16 1987), aff'd in part and vac'd in part on other grounds, 109 S.Ct 2619 (1989); United States v.  
 17 Goldman, 637 F. 2d 664, 667 (9th Cir. 1980); United States v. Ryan, 455 F 2d. 728, 733 (9th  
 18 Cir. 1972). The agents of the IRS cannot and need not guarantee that everything they wish to see  
 19 will be relevant or material to their inquiries. United States v. Acker, 325 F. Supp. 857, 862  
 20 (SDNY 1971).

21 The accompanying Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe establishes that there is the  
 22 requisite nexus between the taxpayer, his unpaid taxes and the requested records. Indeed, the  
 23 bank records sought by the summons will likely aid in the collection of the taxpayer's outstanding  
 24 tax liabilities. Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 2.

25 **C. Availability of Information**

26 The third Powell requirement is that the "information sought is not already within the  
 27 Commissioner's possession." Powell, at 58. Revenue Officer Lowe's declaration states that the  
 28 information sought was not within the possession of the Internal Revenue Service

1 when the summons was issued. Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 8.

2 **D. Administrative Steps**

3 The fourth Powell requirement is that the "administrative steps required by the Code have  
4 been followed." Powell, at 58. Revenue Officer Lowe declaration states that the administrative  
5 steps required by the Code have been followed. Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 5.

6 Petitioners specifically allege that IRS summons was not attested as required under 26  
7 U.S.C. §7603. Pl's Comp., ¶ 8. Attestation can be found on IRS Summons. Pl's Comp., Ex. B.

8 The petitioners have provided no support for allegations that the summons issued did not  
9 meet the Powell requirements.

10 **IV.**

11 **Summons was issued for a valid civil tax purpose**

12 The petitioners raise several arguments that the summons was issued for an invalid  
13 purpose. Summarily, the petitioners allege that the summons was issued for purposes of criminal  
14 prosecution. See Pl's Comp. ¶ 5.

15 The summons is to aid in the collection of previously assessed taxes. Declaration of  
16 Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 2. By the declaration provided by Revenue Officer Lowe, the United  
17 States stated a prime facie case that the summons was issued for a civil collection purpose, and  
18 the petitioners must refute this with sworn affidavit that provides:

19 information or other evidence introduced by the taxpayer reveals (1) that the IRS  
20 issued summonses after the investigating agents recommended prosecution, (2)  
21 that inordinate and unexplained delays in the investigation transpired, or (3) that  
22 the investigating agents were in contact with the Department of Justice . . ." However,  
23 "where the information indicates that none of these three conditions are  
24 present, the district court need inquire no further.

25 Davis v. United States, 2001 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 3243 (D.N.C. 2001). Petitioners cites to no  
26 evidence to support the allegations that the summons was issued for criminal purpose or in bad  
27 faith. Revenue Officer Lowe's declaration shows that this summons was issued for a civil  
28 collection matter, and that no criminal referral has been made, and that a 914 control form has  
not been placed in the petitioners' files. Declaration of Revenue Officer Lowe, ¶ 2. 11, 12.

## CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should deny the petition to quash and order enforcement of the summons.

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